

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
July 14, 2021

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon *	(D)

Staff

Jeri Cook, Election Director

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

None

* Via video conferencing

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held July 14, 2021 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2021, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman moved approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Black moved approval of the agenda as presented. Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Cook provided a written report of the activities of the staff prior to the meeting. A copy of that report is attached. She elaborated on her written report as follows:

- Due to the reimbursement of PPE, we will not have a 4th quarter billing from the State Board.
- Her report on possible polling locations in the Bozeman area will be discussed later in the meeting.
- The signed polling place agreement for Royal Oak has been received.

Regarding the polling place agreements for use of the schools, Ms. Cook read an email she received from Kevin Shafer of the Talbot County Board of Education staff regarding his hesitancy to submit the rental agreement to the Board for consideration. Discussion ensued among Board Members, Ms. Cook and Ms. Ryan regarding the need to better understand the email as it relates to the use of schools for polling purposes and the need to ensure the use of the cafeteria at Easton High School. Mr. Bulman moved that Ms. Ryan write to the School Board regarding the use of schools for elections. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Ms. Ryan stated she will circulate a draft of the letter to Board Members and Ms. Cook for comment prior to sending it.

- Ms. Cook noted that in the packet for this meeting was a Tentative Agenda for the upcoming MAEO meeting.
- The Board of Education Redistricting Committee is scheduled to meet with the county. Ms. Cook reported that she offered to be available to them as needed for advice when requested. According to information received from the census through the county, the data should be available in August to begin the redistricting process.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan had no items to report.

Old Business

- a. Facility for Election Office

There is nothing new to report.

b. Budget FY2021

Ms. Cook previously provided reports on expenditures recorded by the county through May. She also provided a spreadsheet of the current budget as of June 30, 2021.

c. Review of Invoices

Ms. Cook previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

d. County Bulletins

Ms. Cook previously provided copies of County Bulletins. There were no questions from Board Members.

e. Budget FY2022

Ms. Cook provided copies of the spreadsheet for the current budget with expenditures as of this meeting.

f. MAEO/Biennial conference

Ms. Cook again noted that materials regarding the upcoming MAEO conference and State Biennial meeting were included in the packet for this meeting.

New Business

a. Polling place – Bozman area report

As requested by the Board, Ms. Cook toured the entire Bozman area in search of a possible polling place locations in district/precinct 02002. This tour was requested as a result of the notice received from the Bozman UMC that it no longer wishes to serve as a polling place. Ms. Cook provided a written report of her tour of the area, a copy of which is attached. She found no suitable site for a polling place in the precinct. Her report also includes her recommendation that the Board consider the consolidation of the Bozman/Neavitt District/Precinct 02002 with St. Michaels High School District/Precinct 02001, and that the District/Precinct be moved to St. Michaels High School.

Following a thorough discussion by the Board, Mr. Bulman moved that (1) the Board consider Ms. Cook's recommendation as contained in her report; (2) a postcard be sent to each voter in District/Precinct 02002 stating that the Board is considering a change in voting location and; (3) a hearing be held at our September or October meeting on the proposal to consolidate Bozman/Neavitt with St. Michaels High School. Mr. Black

seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Ms. Cook noted that the cost of such a postcard billing is estimated to cost approximately \$500.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the next meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.


Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Attested,

Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Bulman, Secretary

Director's Report - July 2021

- According to an email from Shelly Holland at SBE, due to the reimbursement of PPE, Talbot will not have a 4th quarter billing.
- The requested report for the Bozman area is included in the board packet.
- Be out of the office July 16 through July 23, attending iGo Conference.
- I will be sending the hotel reservation information over to the county upon my return from the conference. Please make sure that you have sent me your information.
- The next Director's meeting is July 15th.
- We have not received any additional polling place agreements at this time.